

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner has withdrawn the outstanding rejections of the claims in view of the amendment to claim 24. In particular, claim 24 now requires that the first and second chambers be linked by passageways in fluid communication with the distal end of the first and second electrophoretic channels respectively. The previous examiner relied on the use of Place et al (USP 4,652,354) for the teaching of the first and second chambers (see p. 5 from the 10/11/2007 office action). However, these chambers of Place are located adjacent the central reservoir for sample introduction and are not linked by a passageway to the distal ends of the electrophoretic channels, nor is there any obvious reason for relocating these chambers to meet the amended claim language. Claims 25-34 and 37-39 depend from allowable claim 24 and are also allowable for that reason.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to KAJ K. OLSEN whose telephone number is (571)272-1344. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X. Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-1342. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Kaj K Olsen/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795
June 18, 2008